



**ST JOHN FISHER
HARROGATE**

Headteacher Bulletin 18th September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break, and your children have enjoyed their first full week back at school. We have certainly enjoyed seeing them. I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome parents/carers of Year 7 and Year 12 students who have joined us this term, especially those of you who are new to the school.

All year groups have made an excellent start to the new school year demonstrating an enthusiastic and positive attitude to their learning. Students are well equipped for learning and are in full uniform. Thank you for your support in making this happen.

New Staff

The following new staff have joined our school community. I hope they are enjoying their new roles and will be happy in their work at St John Fisher.

Mr Richardson - Sociology teacher
Mr Durkan - English teacher and PSHE co-ordinator
Mr Prosser - Mathematics teacher
Mr Neal - Technology teacher (ECT)
Ms Kesterlian – Religious Education teacher
Mr Godsell-Wright – Year Manager
Mrs Brook – Year Manager
Ms Carter-Dionisio – Teaching Assistant

Examination Results 2026

We are celebrating a superb set of GCSE, A Level and Applied General results which are a testament to the dedication, resilience, and hard work of our students, as well as the commitment and expertise of our teaching and support staff.

At GCSE our students have achieved strong outcomes with 85% of subjects above the JCQ national average for grades 9 -7. A key achievement is 83% of students have achieved a standard pass (9-4), and 59% a strong pass (9-5) in Mathematics and English.

Students in the Associated Sixth Form of St Aidan's and St John Fisher also achieved another year of exceptional A Level results, reflecting the hard work, resilience, and ambition of students. Nearly a third of all grades gained are A* or A and over 77% of grades are grade C or

EDUCATING FOR LIFE



ST JOHN FISHER HARROGATE

better. Students taking the applied general courses once again performed very well with 78% of the cohort achieving Distinction* to Merit grades.

This year's cohort has achieved notable success across a wide range of subjects, with many students securing places at top universities, prestigious apprenticeships, and exciting career pathways. The Associated Sixth Form continues to uphold its reputation for academic excellence, first class pastoral care, and high-quality holistic education for all.

A huge well done to all students, who should be so proud of these amazing outcomes, and thank you to their parent/carers for your tremendous support.

Save the Date - Parents Information Evening

The partnership between home and school is crucial to securing exceptional examination outcomes. During the second and third week of term we are holding our Information Evenings for all year groups. These provide a valuable opportunity for parents/carers to acquire key information and messages which are applicable to their child's year group.

The Information Evenings will be held on the following dates;

22nd September - **Year 8** (5.30 p.m.) and **Year 9** (6.45 p.m.)

23rd September - **Year 10** (5.30 p.m.)

24th September **Year 12** (5.30 p.m.) and **Year 13** (6.30 p.m.)

Thank you to the parents/carers who attended the first of three Year 11 Information Evenings earlier this week. Mrs Joy, Deputy Headteacher, has sent a letter to all Year 11 parents/carers to which the presentation and key information from the evening are attached. Please can I encourage you to read this important information if you were unable to attend.

Please see below other key dates for Year 11 parents/carers

Thursday 7th January - Parent Consultation evening (Discussions with parents and class teachers via School Cloud)

Wednesday 13th January - Parents Information Evening 2

Wednesday 27th January - English and Maths support information evening (targeted invites will be sent out for this event).

Year 7 Retreats and Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage

As a Catholic school we provide opportunities for all students to participate in retreats and pilgrimages including day retreats, residentials and international visits. These opportunities

EDUCATING FOR LIFE



ST JOHN FISHER HARROGATE

contribute to our student's faith formation and spiritual development as part of our mission to develop the whole child - spiritually, morally, intellectually and personally.

Next week all Year 7 students will be participating in their form group day retreats at Harlow Carr. These will provide time for them to further 'get to know' each other and their form tutor. The retreats will be led by our Lay Chaplain, Mr Frances Atkin.

On Saturday 26th September staff and students from across the school will be participating in the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham, during which they will honour Mary and share their faith with pilgrims from across the country.

Save the Date - Open Day

We are delighted to announce that the Main School and Sixth Form Open Day for St John Fisher, will take place on Saturday 3rd October. Students currently in Year 6 and Year 11, along with their families, are warmly invited to attend. Further information is available via the school website and social media platforms.

On-going improvements to the school site

Following the refurbishment of the school kitchen and the construction of new sixth form toilets, I am pleased to inform you that the Upper school toilets are currently being fully refurbished in response to feedback which we have received from collating students' views.

Reception Area

During the last academic year, an increasing number of students failed to bring the equipment required for the day. Subsequently there was a marked rise in the number of items being dropped off by parents/carers at reception. This created disruption to learning with students leaving and arriving late to lessons after collecting items or waiting for them to be delivered.

In line with our mission statement, "Educating for Life" we would like to ask for your support in encouraging your child to be well organised and independent with regards to being fully equipped for the school day and any after school/extra-curricular activities.

As we hope you will understand, for safeguarding reasons, the receptionist cannot leave her desk to deliver items to students. Therefore, except for medicines e.g. EpiPens and items required to safeguard students e.g. housekeys, we regret that we are unable to accept items at reception during the school day.

EDUCATING FOR LIFE



ST JOHN FISHER HARROGATE

Please be assured that we can provide most items that students forget, without the need for parents to be inconvenienced by bringing these items into school, including uniform items, lunch, P.E. equipment etc. We thank you for your anticipated support and understanding.

Access to the school site

To ensure the health and safety of students and staff, please note that vehicles are not permitted on the school site between the hours of 8am and 9am and 3pm and 4pm. All visitors and students arriving on foot (during the school day) must use the pedestrian gate. Therefore, if you are in a car, please drop your child at the layby in front of the pedestrian gate.

Communication

For **ALL** correspondence with the school please use one of the following email addresses:

For students in years 7-11: office@sjfchs.org.uk

For students in years 12 and 13: 6thform@sjfchs.org.uk

Please refer to our school website and follow us on our social media platforms, (Facebook, and Instagram), where you will find the latest school news, updates, and information relating to future school events.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mort
Headteacher

This week's Collective Worship Theme is Community

'Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up' Ecclesiastes' 4: 9 - 12

September Key Dates

- W/C 21st - Year 7 Form Retreats
- 22nd - Year 8 and Year 9 Information Evenings
- 23rd - Year 10 Information Evenings
- 24th - Year 12 and Year 13 Pastoral Information evenings
- 26th - Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes

EDUCATING FOR LIFE